

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
PLIGHT OF COTTON GROWERS
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of area and productivity of cotton recorded during each of the last five years; State-wise;
- (b) the details of Minimum Support Price fixed for cotton during the said period;
- (c) the quantum of cotton procured during each of the last five years with price, State-wise, alongwith the name of the procuring Agency;
- (d) whether the cotton growers of Kalahandi, Nuapara and Bolangir districts of Orissa are facing difficulties for cotton being not procured timely and directly by Government agencies;
- (e) if so, the remedial measures being planned for its future procurement;
- (f) the details of suicide cases committed by cotton growers during each of the last five years, State-wise; and
- (g) the remedial steps being taken to save the farmers from indebtedness?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a): The State-wise estimates of area and productivity of cotton during last 5 years viz. 1996-97 to 2000-01 are given in Annexure-I.
- (b): The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for basic varieties of cotton like F-414/H- 777/J-34 and H-4 for the years 1996-97 to 2001-02 fixed by the Government are given in Annexure-II.
- (c): The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is the sole agency of Government of India for undertaking price support operations whenever the prices of cotton fall to the MSP level. The State-wise details of procurement of cotton by CCI under MSP operations for the years 1996-97 to 2001-02 are given in Annexure-III.
- (d) & (e): The details of centre-wise/district-wise procurement of kapas made by CCI in Orissa during 2001-2002 under MSP operations is as under:

(Kapas in quintals)

Centre/District Procurement under MSP

Raigada	46599
Kesinga	41142
Umarkot	6612

Total	94353
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Since the processing facilities are restricted to three places namely Raigada, Kesinga and Umarkot, CCI has opened procurement centres at these three places in the State. However, Kapas produced in all the districts of the State is brought for marketing to the above three centres.

As per the information received from the CCI, the farmers in Orissa did not face any difficulty in selling their cotton to CCI.

(f): No information on this is available.

(g) The Government have taken steps to increase flow of credit to the agriculture sector including to cotton growers. As per the Budget speech of the Finance Minister for the year 2002-2003, the total credit of agriculture sector through institutional channels is being increased from Rs. 64,000 crores in 2001-2002 to Rs.75,000 crores in 2002-2003. Delivery of agriculture credit is also being further improved. A total of 2.32 crores kisan credit cards were issued by cooperatives, regional rural banks and commercial banks as at the end of 31.03.2002, covering a sanctioned amount of Rs.5093 crores. These steps are likely to improve credit to farmers including cotton growers.